

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 (cancelled).

13. (New) A method for use in a system in a vehicle for maintaining components of the vehicle, the system including a display element, the method comprising:

    computing a measure which indicates an extent of performance degradation of a vehicle component due to an operation of the vehicle;

    adding the measure to a cumulative measure;

    determining whether the cumulative measure exceeds a predetermined value;

    providing an alert when the cumulative measure exceeds the predetermined value;

and

    displaying a selectable option on the display element, a selection of the option causing information about the alert to be provided, thereby facilitating maintenance of the vehicle component.

14. (New) The method of claim 13 wherein the vehicle component includes an engine.

15. (New) The method of claim 14 wherein the measure concerns a rate at which the engine runs.

16. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein the measure includes a measure of time during which the engine runs at a rate exceeding a predetermined rate.

17. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein the rate is a function of an RPM value.

18. (New) A system for use in a vehicle for maintaining components of the vehicle, the system comprising:

a device for computing a measure which indicates an extent of performance degradation of a vehicle component due to an operation of the vehicle, the measure being added to a cumulative measure;

an output element for providing an alert when the cumulative measure exceeds a predetermined value; and

a display element for displaying a selectable option thereon, a selection of the option causing information about the alert to be provided, thereby facilitating maintenance of the vehicle component.

19. (New) The system of claim 18 wherein the vehicle component includes an engine.

20. (New) The system of claim 19 wherein the measure concerns a rate at which the engine runs.

21. (New) The system of claim 20 wherein the measure includes a measure of time during which the engine runs at a rate exceeding a predetermined rate.

22. (New) The system of claim 20 wherein the rate is a function of an RPM value.